

CENTENARY'S
NEXT CENTURY
?

Library of
Centenary College
of Louisiana
Shreveport, Louisiana



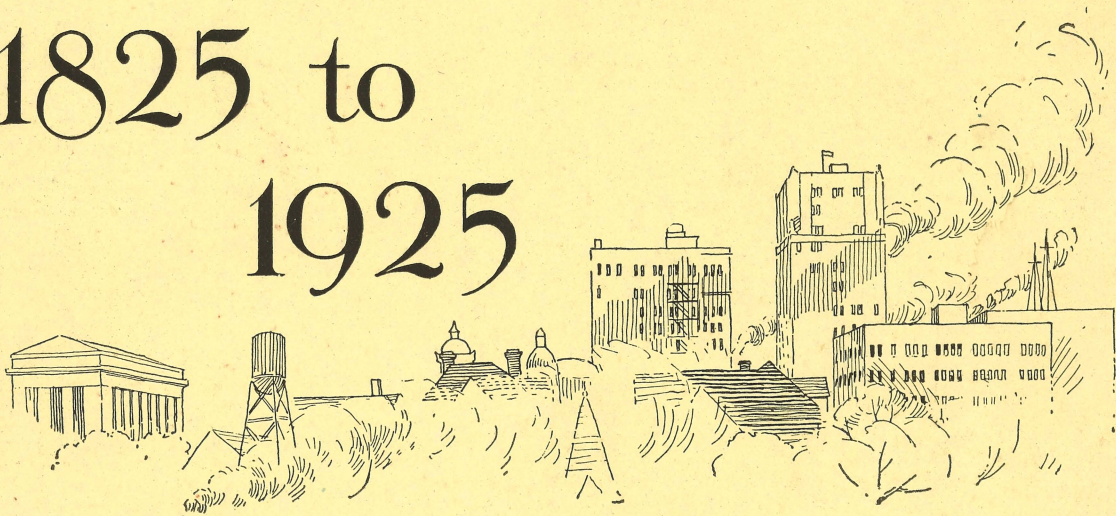
This book is the gift of

Deloy G. Dowell



"Where should the scholar live? In solitude, or in society? In the green stillness of the country, where he can hear the heart of Nature beat, or in the dark, gray town where he can hear and feel the throbbing heart of man?"—LONGFELLOW.

1825 to
1925



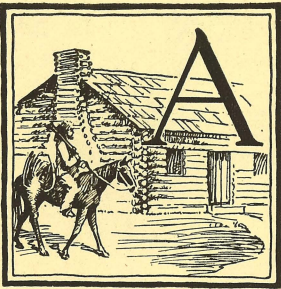


Mr. E. A. Frost, General Chairman Centenary Centennial Campaign



Looking Toward the Men's Building on Centenary's Campus

*"Because that boy walked here, that prankish faun,
Who loafs through our classes, stamps our shadowy lawn,
Men shall come here to worship and to shout—
When you and I to long, long night are gone."*



Century ago when Centenary was born, a College education was a thing to dream about. It was a luxury that only the very wealthy could afford. It could be obtained by going abroad, or to the older states where higher education had been established. That meant months of travel, and travel in those days was uncertain, tiresome, and fraught with danger.

The pioneers of Louisiana had been brought up in the belief that a college education was a cultural necessity. They realized that the future of the state would rest on the character and quality of her leaders. Bitter experiences of the past forewarned them that trying times were sure to come. Leaders must be found or raised up, developed and educated. Leaders educated and trained outside of Louisiana environs might be leaders, but would not know Louisiana problems. Leaders educated in the environment in which they were to serve, taught to meet and cope with unusual local conditions were preferable.

In 1825, just thirteen years after Louisiana's admission to the Union, the State Legislature met the problem squarely, and began in that year the first lasting educational venture of the state. The College of Louisiana, as Centenary was then called, was established at Jackson, Louisiana. One of the first official acts of the Board of Trustees was to make a resolution providing that "Any number of children of indigent parents, not exceeding fifty at any one time, may be educated in the college or preparatory school, free of charge."

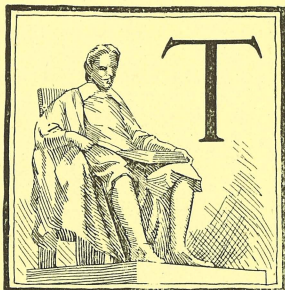
The men comprising the first Board of Trustees were earnest men, farsighted enough to realize that the future of education in Louisiana rested on their shoulders. Their influence has been felt throughout the history of the institution. Their early efforts have been an inspiration to the trustees who have followed. The burden of nursing this educational institution through its infancy and building it to the fullness of its hundredth year, was a herculean task challenging the resource, patience and sacrifice of the founders and those who followed them.

In the early days, Louisiana had not found herself. She was not a rich state; the money allowed from the State Treasury for education was insufficient. Even in spite of this condition, the trustees carried on, firm in their beliefs and true to their educational ideals.

In 1839 the Methodist Episcopal Church South took advantage of the one hundredth year of the work of the Wesley Brothers, and celebrated the anniversary by providing for and stressing the importance of Christian education. In that year Centenary College was established at Brandon, Mississippi, under the jurisdiction of the Louisiana and Mississippi conference. Six years later, in 1845, the College of Louisiana was purchased and absorbed by Centenary College. The College of Louisiana had long suffered from the inadequate allowance granted by the State, but

she had good buildings and an excellent site. Centenary had not erected permanent buildings at Brandon. By the purchase and absorption both institutions gained. Centenary secured good buildings and the College of Louisiana benefited by better financing. For many years after the amalgamation, Centenary also served as an educational institution for state students.

* * * *



THE beginning of American education dates back to the days of the Mayflower. All of the institutions founded in the early days—the days of the Pilgrim Fathers—were sponsored by the Church and supported by the denominations to which they owed their existence. Many of the old educational institutions were founded to develop, educate and train ministers.

Harvard University, the first seat of learning in this country, was established in 1636 by John Harvard, a dissenting minister, and other non-conformists. The sentiments which influenced him and those associated with him in the historic venture is graven on a gate-post in the Harvard Campus:

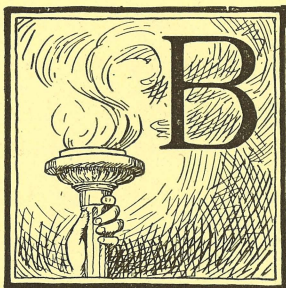
*“After God had carried us safe to New England
and we had builded our houses
provided necessities for our livelihood
reared convenient places for God’s worship
and settled the civil government
one of the next things we longed for
and looked after was to advance learning
and perpetuate it to posterity
dreading to leave an illiterate ministry
to the churches when our present ministers
shall lie in the dust.”*

The same fundamental idea actuated the founding of other denominational institutions of learning that followed in the footsteps of Harvard University. In the early days the church was the medium of creating civic spirit and inspiring civic progress. It may be truly said that education in America owes its birth and early development to its demoninational parentage.

About two hundred years after Harvard University was founded, the Methodists in Louisiana and Mississippi set a lasting example to the South and West by augmenting the educational facilities of the state of Louisiana. But instead of following in the footsteps of Harvard and caring primarily for the development and

education of ministers they were actuated by broader sentiments. Centenary was established under the auspices of the Methodists for the benefit of all children irrespective of creed, birth, circumstance or avocation.

* * * *



BEGINNING with her establishment at Jackson, Centenary took her place as one of the great educational institutions of the country. By 1860 she had earned a national reputation as a leader in the cause of Christian education. She was used as a pattern and her standards were adopted by institutions founded with an eye to the future. In 1861-68, the period of the Civil War, Centenary was closed. All her students answered the call to arms. *Every member of the Senior Class of '61 died on the battlefield fighting for the cause.*

Centenary's buildings were captured by the Union forces, and for a considerable period were used as headquarters from which a number of Union operations were directed. Many of the priceless books, tapestries, art treasures and specimens in the museum were destroyed by the Federal Forces. The only rooms that were unmolested were the quarters of the Union Literary Society. The name "UNION" graven on the doorway of their rooms stood out like a fetish to the Union soldiers, and protected the contents.

Centenary lost no time in spite of the effects of the conflict. In 1868 she resumed her educational activities, and during the Reconstruction Period, played an important part in the life and progress of the South. A roster of the classmen and graduates of Centenary from the date of her establishment to date, would read like the Who's Who of early Louisiana. Some names, such as Jefferson Davis, Judah P. Benjamin and W. B. Spencer have been household words in the South. Others prominent in the various state activities are familiar to all.

Following the days of the Reconstruction Period, Louisiana entered into an era of almost unbelievable progress; population increased, commercial activities diversified, and new industries developed. Changing times, shifting centers of population, problems incident to a progressive people and a growing state all had influence on Centenary and her next epoch.

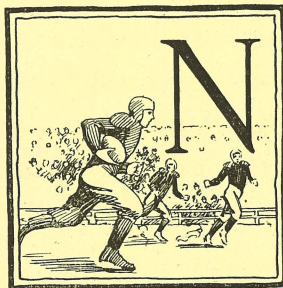
The Progressive Young Business Men, of Shreveport, invited Centenary to locate in their city. The invitation was most attractive, the inducements were many.



A View of Centenary College Campus

It was in 1907 that Centenary received her first large gift. J. B. Atkins, J. W. Atkins, and their associates in the Gladstone Realty Company gave Centenary forty acres of beautifully wooded land on the outskirts of Shreveport. In 1908 Centenary was formally opened on her new site among her new environs.

* * * *



EW friends and additional assets were attracted to Centenary by her move to Shreveport. Rising costs, and the insufficient endowment presented obstacles that bid fair to strangle and choke the institution into oblivion. Many people, had they been charged with the duty of administering the affairs of Centenary would have given up. The Board of Trustees were made of sterner stuff. Undaunted by difficulties and the financial embarrassment they kept on "keeping faith" with those who had gone before. They stayed true to their trust and maintained the same high standards characteristic of Centenary's history.

Then the World War; the whole world cast into a maelstrom. The country

for a space of years bent on one thing, the winning of the War. With the Armistice came a feeling of relief, a letting down of the bars, the restless aftermath of the hectic war days. New thought sprang up. Revolutionary ideas relating to both Religion and Government swept the country like a hurricane shaking the moral structure of the nation like an earthquake.

Just as in the earlier Reconstruction Period, Centenary played her part. No man educated at Centenary has ever sponsored a revolutionary doctrine, either

against state or church. All Centenary's educational children have reflected credit on their Alma Mater. They have consistently taught, preached, lived and died for the ideals of right, the principles of justice, the upright standards inculcated within the classic halls of Centenary College.

In spite of her past achievements, the new friends and the additional assets Centenary had gathered in the twelve years she had been located in Shreveport, the year 1921 presented a real crisis.

Through the century since the establishment at Jackson, the foundation of accomplishments, tradition and ideals had been established. In 1921 the foundation must be strengthened if the future was to be as brilliant as the past.



Dr. George S. Sexton

In the first days of January, 1921, a group of ten earnest, far-sighted, civic-minded, public spirited men, undertook the solution of Centenary's immediate future.

The group that were present on that memorable occasion in the office of Mr. E. A. Frost was composed of: E. A. Frost, F. T. Whited, George S. Prestridge, J. C.

Foster, J. B. Hutchinson, T. C. Clanton, Dr. John L. Scales, R. T. Moore, Dr. George S. Sexton, A. J. Peavy.

It was at that time that Dr. George S. Sexton was selected as President of the College to carry on the work commenced by the Louisiana pioneers, on the foundation so well laid by his predecessors in office. The immediate financial needs of the institution were taken care of by the men present at the meeting.

Shortly after Dr. Sexton assumed the duties of his office, the business men of Shreveport raised a fund to help in an endowment project for Centenary. Shreveport business men invested their funds in Centenary to give her an opportunity to show what she could do.

Now, three years later, Centenary comes to the public to report its progress, account for its activities, and tell its immediate and future needs.

Since 1919 Centenary has shown a steady, healthy growth. This is evidenced by the comparative enrollment tabulated below:

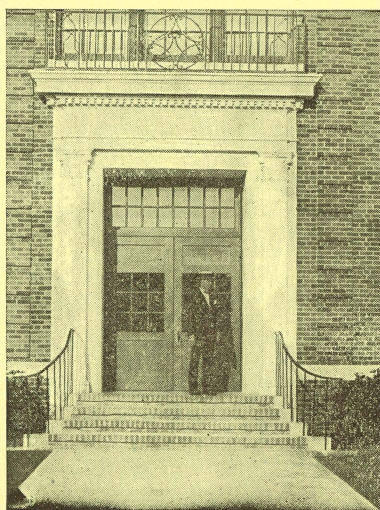
Session 1919-20—The total enrollment was		36
Session 1920-21—The total enrollment was		43
Session 1921-22—The total enrollment was		112
Session 1922-23—The total enrollment was		290
*Session 1923-24—The total enrollment was		404
**Session 1924-25—The total enrollment was		432

**Includes entire session.*

***Incomplete—figures only for part of session. It is conservatively estimated that by the end of the session the enrollment will reach 500.*

Since 1920 the endowment fund has grown wonderfully.

Productive endowment—December 31st, 1920 was \$90,000.00.



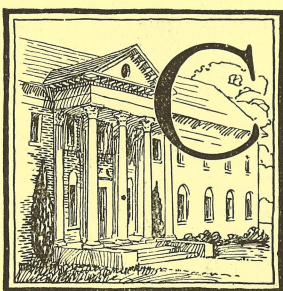
Productive endowment — May 31st, 1924, was \$653,657.93, representing a net increase of \$563,657.93.

The growth as indicated by the total assets bespeaks the keen interest of people who have the future of higher education at heart.

The total assets December 31st, 1920 were \$426,400.00.

The total assets May 31st, 1924, were \$1,217,206.30.

Showing a net increase of \$780,806.30.



CENTENARY'S greatest growth has occurred between 1920-24. Through careful management, indefatigable effort, and interested co-operation she has developed to a phenomenal degree. Her student body and endowment have increased enormously.

However healthy progress may be, it brings with it the necessity for further progress. Colleges, like individuals and businesses, cannot stand still and idly mark time. They must either move forward or backward. Such is the penalty of progress.

For two years it has been apparent that Centenary could not reach her highest stage of effectiveness with her present endowment and equipment. In addition her accomplishments demand that the college be equipped to measure up to her responsibilities, and take advantage of opportunities for further, broader service.

The institutional needs are great. The present class rooms are not sufficient to accommodate the enrollment. Students are being crowded into improvised spaces to get the benefit of the lectures being delivered. This condition must be remedied. Larger lecture rooms must be provided for the science departments, more laboratory equipment and space is demanded. The great faculty assembled at Centenary must have room and tools with which to work.

Students are being crowded in the dormitories. The demand for rooms is greater than the college can meet. Additional dormitory facilities must be provided.

Centenary has a fine library. It must be enlarged and modernized. The administration building must be erected to provide quarters for the administrative force, to provide space for the library and to provide an auditorium sufficiently large for the entire student body to assemble.

The college has no gymnasium for either men or women. Such a condition must not be allowed to continue. The department of physical education is hampered in the work it is trying to do. A new permanent athletic field is necessary for the athletic activities for the entire student body.

The campus, naturally one of the most beautiful in America, requires immediate attention. Permanent roads and walks must be laid out. The natural beauty of the campus must be taken advantage of in order to give cultural value and right surroundings to the student body.

The great faculty of masters now teaching in Centenary College must be paid, and additional professors must be employed. The income from tuition and fees paid by the students provides only 37 per cent of the cost of faculty and instruction.



A View on Old River Near Centenary

The endowment must be increased to One Million Dollars, in order that the present high standard of the faculty may be maintained and additions made.

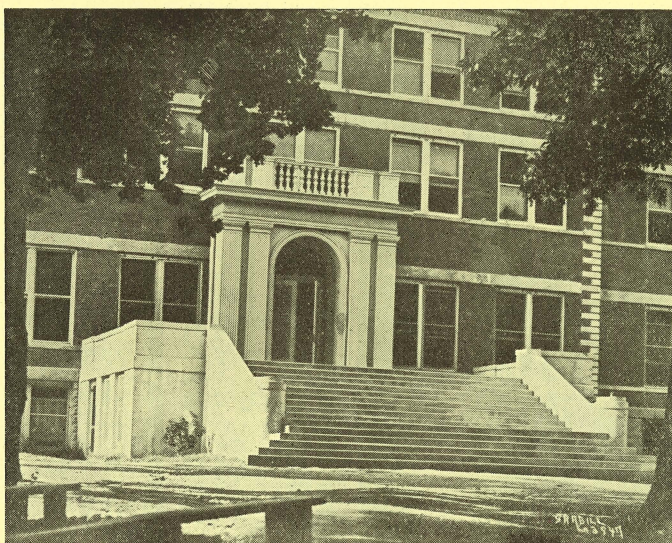
The class rooms needed immediately will cost approximately \$75,000.00.

A class room, laboratory or lecture room, presided over by a master mind is a place where dry bones are brought to life; where dull facts are transmuted into principles, where minds are trained and spirits are quickened. A pedagogue can direct and dictate. A consecrated teacher can set minds to work, bring out of his treasure, things new and old, animate to action and inspire to heroic deeds. Centenary has the consecrated teachers—it needs facilities for them.

The Dormitory will cost approximately \$75,000.00. Men can sleep anywhere, in bunk houses, in barracks or even in pews; but the student requires some measure of privacy and comfort, if he is to be free to put his best efforts into his work. Discomfort may be almost as mischievous as luxury. A man's house is his castle, but if a young man has left his father's house and not yet attained his own, he ought at least to have a room where he can surround himself with his own possessions, where he can be secure from disconcerting interruptions, and where he can learn how to do his work in his own way. The new Dormitory has been efficiently planned, taking all these things into consideration.

To enlarge and modernize the library will cost approximately \$25,000.00.

There are certain books which are the tools of a man's trade. He needs to own them. The limitations of private ownership are soon reached. There are many books which must be at hand even though they are not in constant use, and out of a host of acquaintances will come the chosen friends. There is real inspiration in long shelves filled with books, just as there is inspiration in a crowd of men. A good li-



Entrance to Men's Dormitory

of instruction, records, problems pertaining to finance, and the myriads of detail incident to the regulation of large numbers of people and their training all clear through the administrative department.

The auditorium will provide a place where faculty, students and guests can mingle in a body. A powerful influence should be exerted by the professor or instructor upon the life of the student. Centenary in the days gone by has always maintained a personal contact welding students and faculty together as a family to provide close personal contact and guidance through the critical collegiate years when the student is groping and floundering through his formative educational period. The auditorium does much to promote this unity and contact.

The gymnasium and athletic field will cost approximately \$125,000.00. The building of moral character and the development of upright young men and women has always been Centenary's aim. Keen minds need strong bodies. To develop strong bodies a place must be provided for supervised physical training and competitive athletic games and contests for all students.

To permanently improve the campus will cost approximately \$50,000.00. The campus is naturally one of the most beautiful in America. It affords a rare combination of seclusion and communication which is conducive to mental development. The buildings are situated on the broad crest of a gently sloping hill and are surrounded and interspersed with a veritable paradise of trees. Trees of almost every variety known to this climate are growing as nature planted them on Centenary's campus. The beauty is Nature's handiwork, unaided by man. When the campus has been landscaped and permanently marked off—driveways put in and sidewalks laid—Centenary College campus will add cultural atmosphere and will indeed be garden spot.

brary means access to the best work of many minds. Centenary now has the basis of a fine library. It needs more than that.

The administration building will cost approximately \$150,000.00. It will house the library, administrative offices, auditorium and emergency class rooms.

Colleges like big business enterprises require careful management. The discipline, personal supervision of individual students, courses

Additional endowment is required to the amount of \$300,000.00. Although Centenary has been likened unto a business institution, the product it turns out does not return a profit to the institution. The finished product is a profit to the community, state and nation. Inasmuch as the fees and tuition charges paid by the students only meet 37 per cent of the cost of faculty and instruction, the balance must be met by the income from productive endowment funds.

After all, the campus and buildings are the body of a college; the administration the heart; endowment the blood; and the faculty the soul. All inseparable—all intertwined, each vital to the other—interdependent. Centenary needs additional endowment.

Bonded indebtedness and extension work require the expenditure of approximately \$200,000.00.

The physical equipment should be free from indebtedness; bonded indebtedness means interest to be met and increases cost of operation by the amount of interest to be paid.

The phenomenal growth during the past four years made the bonded debt necessary. Now with this forward movement the yoke of bonded debt must be lifted and in addition a contingent fund to provide for further extensions as needed should be established.

The total sum required is ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

THE THANK OFFERING

With the opening of her One Hundredth session—at the commencement of her second century of service to the cause of education and the state, Centenary and her friends reviewed her record, her accomplishments, examined her immediate needs.

One Million Dollars, the amount required to properly enable her physical equipment and facilities to meet the growing demands, was more than a small group of men could handle alone. After careful consideration and much deliberation, a group of prominent men and women banded together for the purpose of raising a One Million Dollar Thank Offering to commemorate the Centennial of Centenary College. Every individual, within the reach of those interested in this movement, who realizes the needs and appreciates the benefits of higher education will be given an opportunity to participate in this fund.

The raising of this Thank Offering is a mighty task. It requires co-operation and sacrifice from all. This enterprise is not a collection to be taken up—it is a Thank Offering for those earnest pioneers in the cause of Christian education who have wrought in the past Century. It requires pledges of faith in and for the future of Louisiana and higher education.



President's Home on the Campus

WHAT IT WILL DO

Louisiana will prove to the Nation that she is continually providing, locally for her educational future. The raising of this One Million Dollar Thank Offering will place in Shreveport one of the best colleges in the South. Her buildings and facilities will be better. Her faculty already unsurpassed in the South will be strengthened. Centenary with her rich heritage of history and tradition, her service record full of accomplishment, will once more take her place as a leader in the cause of Christian Education. The Million Dollar Thank Offering will take care of Centenary's immediate needs. Through the augmentation of her facilities Centenary will become more attractive to local, state and foreign students.

WHY YOU SHOULD HELP

Every resident of the state of Louisiana, every man who has business in Louisiana should contribute, participate in and pledge to this Million Dollar Thank Offering because he has reaped benefits from, by and through Centenary College of the past and present; because he will assuredly participate in the fruits of Centenary College of the future.

Practically every institution, organization, industry, or business is associated with or served by a Centenary product. Almost every important or worthwhile activity counts among its active sponsors or supporters some individuals who received their cultural training at Centenary.

Every community in the state comes directly or indirectly under Centenary's influence. Many alumni and classmen have risen to honorable distinction in public life as statesmen, jurists, lawyers, authors, ministers, editors, and educators. Many have done pioneer work in difficult fields. Many are leaders in rural communities, doing the hardest work of all, forming public sentiment. All reflect credit on their Alma Mater.

Centenary's century of accomplishment justifies the belief of her founders that education is best gained in a Christian atmosphere. At Centenary the problems of life have always been frankly threshed out in the class room under the guidance and leadership of consecrated masters. Every student goes out into the world prepared to meet the intricate problems of life aided by a spiritual and cultural training.

The world needs men of such character, vision, patience, power, intelligence that they will become recognized leaders for right in whatever community they may serve. Centenary produces MEN.

Louisiana must depend upon her own resources, her own efforts, her own sacrifices, to provide for her additional higher educational facilities.

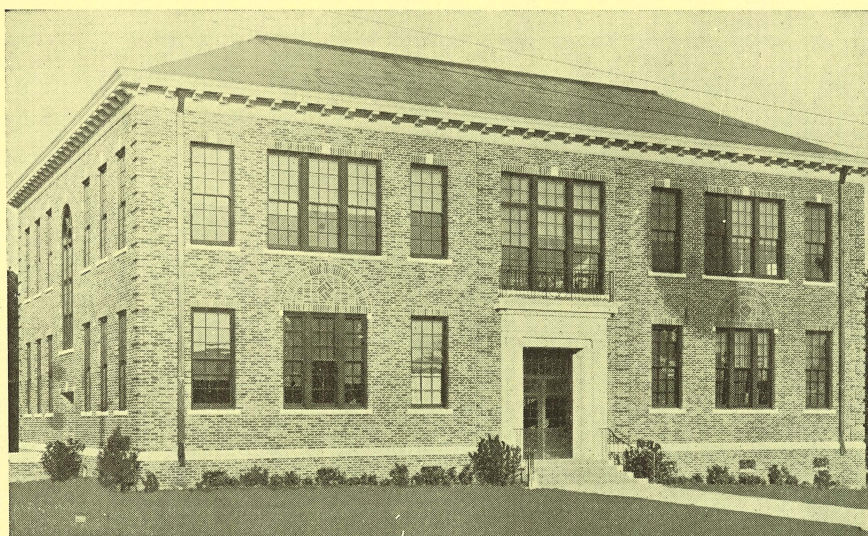
Centenary has a glorious history. She has served well, she has been progressive. Her ideals and attainments in the past century have been of a high order. To make possible for Centenary the same accomplishment and progress in the century to come, the additional facilities, buildings and endowment outlined elsewhere in this brochure are necessary.

In the days of relatively small things, many people made relatively large ventures of faith to found and carry on a school for developing Christian leaders. A few gave a large portion of their capacity, many made considerable sacrifices. The trust set up by men and women who have gone from earth, is a mighty incentive, spurring us on to make Centenary's further progress possible. Their example stands as a beacon to the present generation showing the way, urging us on. Centenary's accomplishments, traditions and present endowment constitute a heritage, a trust, an obligation to take such advance steps as will make them serve their fullest purpose.

This fund is to be raised in order



Faculty Row on the Campus



Fine Arts Building Centenary College

that Centenary with the ideals, facilities, history and standards given us by our forefathers may be passed on to future generations, not only intact but augmented with the improvements and additional equipment she needs — her future assured by ample working capital.

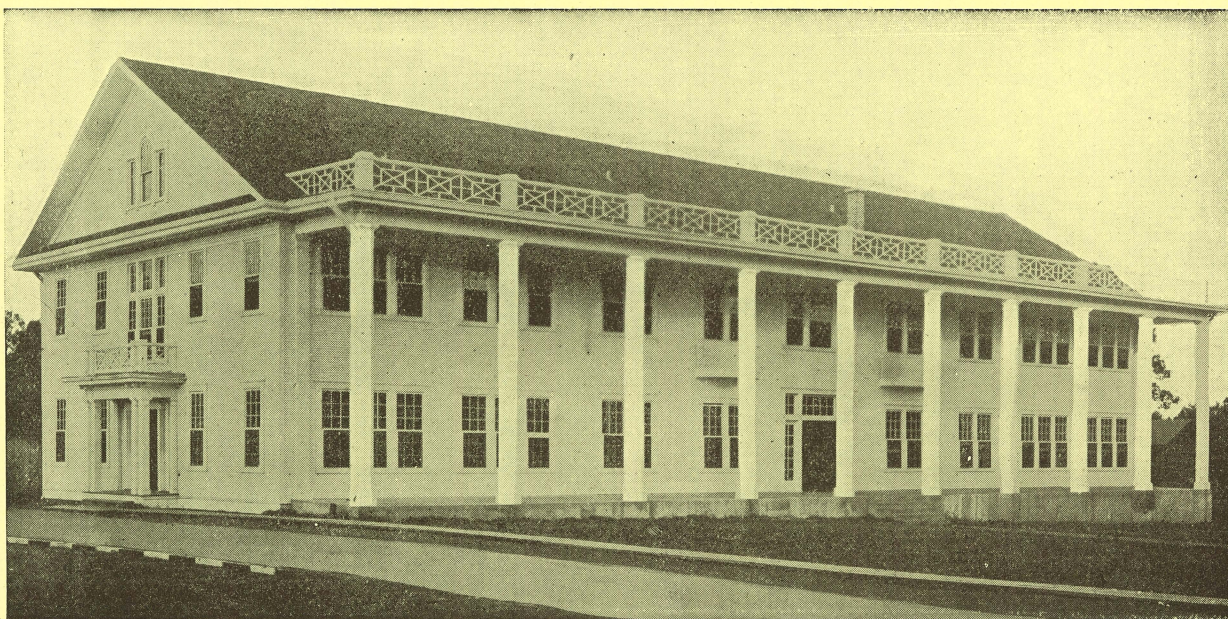
A pledge given to this One Million Dollar Thank Offering for Centenary is an investment in the educational future of Louisiana. An investment in Centenary is safe. The human dividends to accrue are sure. The history of the last century has proved that fact. Centenary like the Bank of England and educational institutions like Harvard, Cambridge and Oxford, has stood the test of time—has proved conclusively her value to the community and state.

Although one hundred years old Centenary is entering her second century not weak and infirm with age, but fired with new zeal, new blood. Now Centenary faces what promises to be and should be her most effective period. It rests largely with the citizens of Louisiana and their liberal support to this Thank Offering Campaign, whether the future of Centenary will be as brilliant as the past. All public spirited, civic-minded persons with the educational future of Louisiana at heart should give their most sincere and liberal consideration to this project.

MEMORIALS

Since the beginning of our national history, education in the higher branches has been privately endowed. Many an institution of learning has been founded by philanthropic men and women.

Such benefactors as John Harvard, Eli Yale, Matthew Vassar, R. S. Munger, Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Washington Duke, John B. Duke, Cornelius



Women's Dormitory at Centenary College

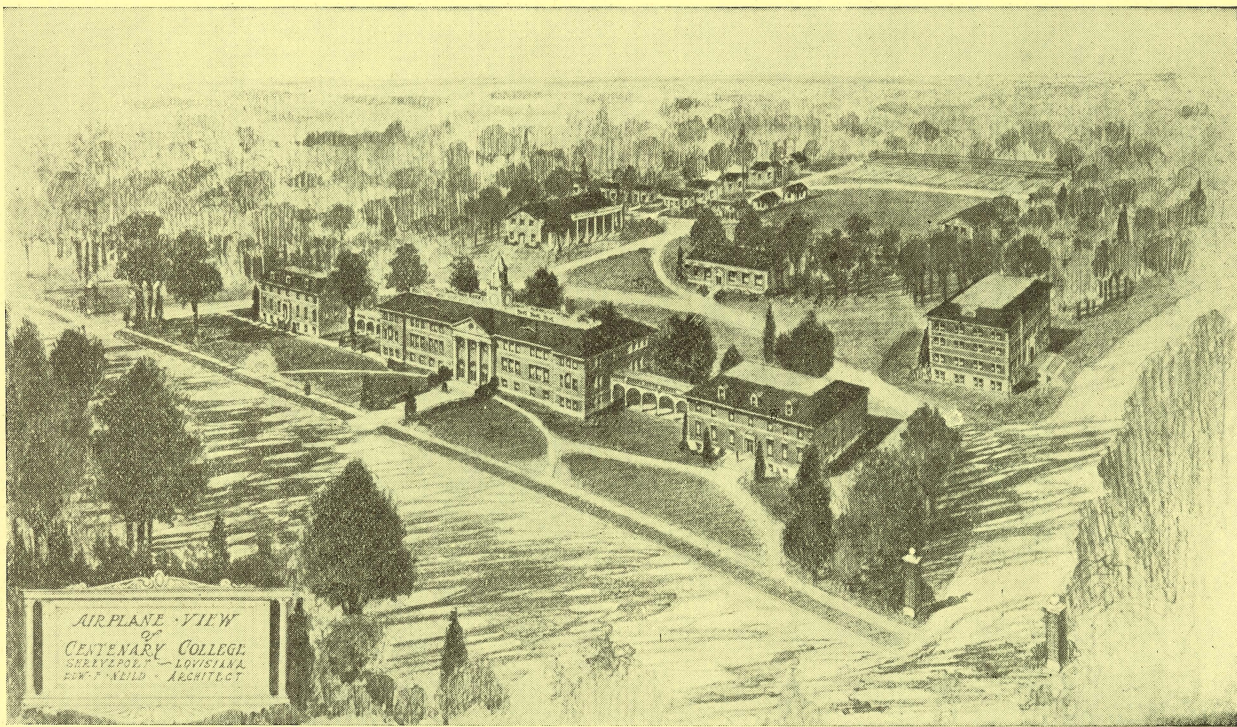
Vanderbilt, W. K. Vanderbilt, and many others have made extensive additions to the educational facilities of the country.

Other accomplishments of these benefactors may have passed from memory but their contributions to education are not forgotten. The institutions they helped to found or enlarge stand as an inspiration to all men, a constant reminder of their enterprise, a permanent testimonial to their public spirited benevolence, a lasting memorial to their philanthropy representing their investment in the generations to come.

Centenary College offers an unusual opportunity for the establishment of memorials.

In a very large institution the individual gift is often lost sight of because of the magnitude of the plant. In the case of Centenary College the gift of a building, a part of a building, or some other facility will create a prominent memorial.

Through generations and centuries to come Centenary College will stand—a monument to the people who believing in its purpose, appreciating its accomplishments, realizing its need for facilities, co-operated and sacrificed to make possible a greater Centenary College.



Centenary College as it will look in a few years. All of the buildings except the two on the left front are now in use.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The following are some of the ways your interest in Centenary College may be expressed:

A gift of one of the following buildings or improvements, which may bear the name of an individual, a family, club or a community.

Centenary needs an Administration Building that will cost approximately \$150,000.00.

Centenary needs a Gymnasium and permanent Athletic Field that will cost about \$125,000.00.

Centenary needs additional Class Rooms that will cost approximately \$75,000.00.

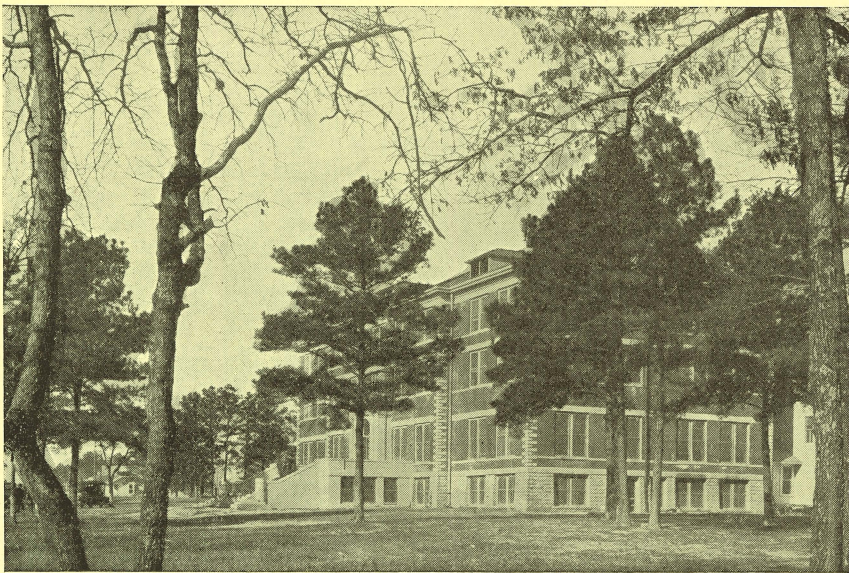
Centenary needs a new Dormitory Building that will cost about \$75,000.00.

Centenary's Library needs to be modernized and enlarged. The cost will be approximately \$25,000.00.

Centenary's Campus needs to be permanently improved. The cost will be about \$50,000.00.

Memorial Suites in the new buildings.

A subscription to the General, Building and Endowment Funds which if desired may be extended over a period of years.



Men's Dormitory at Centenary

In addition to the buildings an opportunity is offered to create a Memorial Endowment sustaining in full or in part, the following departments of professorships at Centenary College:

Science, Ancient Languages, Biblical Literature, Commerce, Education, English, Expression, History and Social Science, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Music and Journalism.



Centenary College Chapel

The Board of Trustees is composed of staunch business and professional men representing Shreveport and Louisiana. The names of these gentlemen are a pledge and a guarantee to the public.

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